

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106913

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, GR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN PROPOSALS

1. OPEN HEARINGS BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
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COMMITTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
PROPOSALS CONCLUDED APRIL 25 WITH TESTIMONY BY KENNETH
RUSH AND PROFESSOR WOHLSTETTER (DETAILS IN SEPTTEL).

2. HIRC MARKUP OF THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS FOR
GREECE, TURKEY AND CYPRUS WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY,
MAY 3. A VOTE IN THE FULL COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED THAT

AFTERNOON.

3. OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HAVE SPOKEN TO VIRTUALLY ALL 37 MEMBERS OF THE HIRC. MOST SEEM CONVINCED THAT THE EMBARGO HAS NOT FACILITATED CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS AND SHOULD BE LIFTED TO HELP GET CYPRUS TALKS RESTARTED AND TO RE-CEMENT IMPORTANT US BILATERAL AND NATO SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. SOME OF THE 37 HAVE NONETHELESS DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLE NERVOUSNESS ABOUT VOTING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS, BECAUSE OF CONSTITUENT PRESSURE AND BECAUSE THEY PERCEIVE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION MAY NOT HAVE THE REQUIRED VOTES

TO WIN IN BOTH THE FULL SENATE AND HOUSE. EVEN SOME OF 19 SIGNATORIES OF ZABLOCKI LETTER TO THE SECRETARY IN MARCH HAVE EXPRESSED DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER THEY WILL VOTE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION PACKAGE ON MAY 3.

4. A FEW REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO VOTED AGAINST EMBARGO IN 1975 HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY ARE RELUCTANT TO BAIL OUT ADMINISTRATION AND AT SAME TIME INCUR WRATH OF GREEK VOTERS WHO THEY MIGHT RE-WIN. CONGRESSMEN DERWINSKI, BROOMFIELD AND BUCHANAN HAVE EXPRESSED VIEWS ALONG THESE LINES. AN EFFORT IS BEING MADE BY CONGRESSMEN FINDLEY AND JOHN ANDERSON (R-ILL.) TO HAVE FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER MEET WITH REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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URGE SUPPORT FOR ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM AND EXPLAIN WHY DOMESTIC EXPLOITATION OF GREEK-TURKISH ISSUE SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

5. OUR CURRENT ESTIMATE IS THAT WE ARE STILL A FEW VOTES SHORT OF ABSOLUTE HIRC MAJORITY FOR ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM THESE FEW VOTES ARE WITHIN GRASP FROM LIST OF WAVERING DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMEN, INCLUDING COLLINS (D-ILL.), MEYNER (D-N.J.), BONKER (D-WASH.), PEASE (D-OHIO), BEILENSON (D-CAL.), DANIELSON (D-CAL.), AND CAVANAUGH (D-NEB).

6. SENATE WILL BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS ON MAY 2. DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER WILL BE LEAD OFF ADMINISTRATION WITNESS TO BE FOLLOWED BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN, GENERAL JONES AND CLARK CLIFFORD. SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP WILL BEGIN TWO DAYS LATER, AND FULL SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WILL TAKE UP ISSUE DURING WEEK OF MAY 8. FRIENDLY SENATE STAFFERS TELL US WE DO NOT HAVE A MAJORITY ON THE SENATE COMMITTEE, AND ARE BUSILY DRAFTING AMENDMENTS TO ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS IN AN EFFORT TO GET AS MUCH OF OUR PROGRAM AS

POSSIBLE THROUGH THE SFRC. VANCE

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